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The President's Daily Brief

23 January 1973

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~~Top Secret~~
Sensitive

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 January 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the Communists appear to be planning four days of increased military activity between announcement of a cease-fire and the time it actually goes into effect. *(Page 1)*

Jordan's King Husayn wants a reconciliation with Egypt and Syria to take place before he comes to Washington. *(Page 2)*

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The South Africans are building a large pilot plant for the production of enriched uranium, claiming they have discovered a new method for doing so. *(Page 3)*

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SOUTH VIETNAM

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Intercepted enemy messages have called for preparations for action to be completed by 23 or 24 January. The Communists appear to be planning about four days of increased military activity between the announcement of a cease-fire agreement and the time that it actually goes into effect. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

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JORDAN-EGYPT

King Husayn is working to achieve a dramatic reconciliation with Egypt and Syria before his arrival in Washington early next month, in the opinion of Ambassador Brown. The King hopes, moreover, that the Egyptian and Syrian presidents will permit him to speak on their behalf as well as his own. He thinks this will add urgency to his view that a Middle East solution must be found this year and that the United States must take the lead in getting it nailed down.

An effort to patch up the feud among the three countries does appear to be in the works.

President Sadat sees Husayn as a useful Arab channel to Washington and may hope that the King can influence the US toward new efforts facilitating a Middle East settlement. At the same time, Sadat hopes to forestall any Jordanian move toward a unilateral settlement with Israel.

A formal reconciliation would make possible a greater show of Arab solidarity against Israel, but Husayn will not subordinate any of his independence to achieve this objective.

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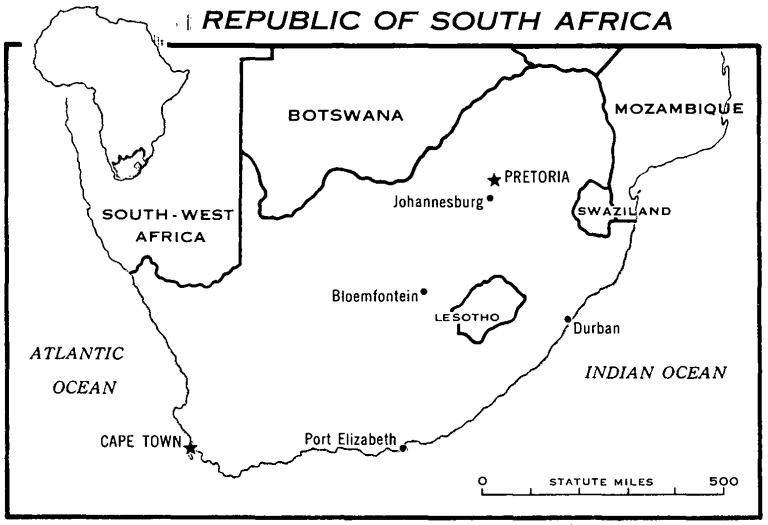
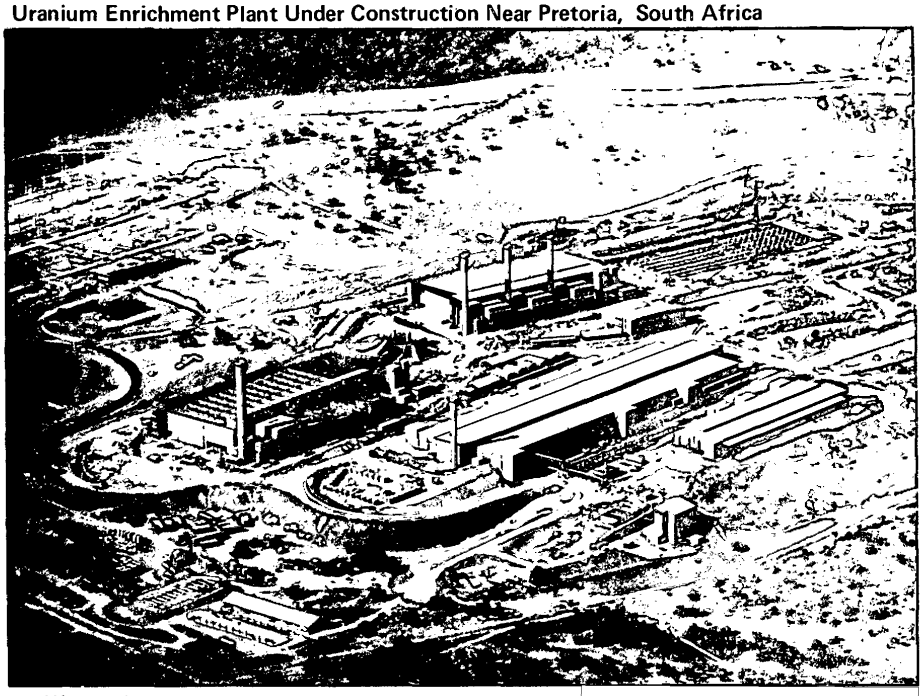


Uranium Enrichment Plant Under Construction Near Pretoria, South Africa



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SOUTH AFRICA

[redacted] show that construction is continuing at a rapid pace on a pilot uranium enrichment plant near Pretoria. Construction of the facility, which is located about a mile from the South African atomic research center, began in 1970, when the government claimed it had discovered a new method of producing enriched uranium that would be economically competitive with methods used by other countries. The government added that $70 million had been allotted for construction of the pilot plant. 25X1

The plant is large relative to pilot facilities using conventional methods for uranium enrichment.

The South Africans have sought financial assistance from the US and several West European countries for the construction of a separate production plant. They plan to ask yet again. So far, their efforts have failed because Pretoria is unwilling to reveal any information about the new process.

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NOTES

European Communities - Asia: The political committee of the European Communities has established a new subcommittee for the Far East. The subcommittee has been charged with preparing for China's foreign minister, who will visit Europe this month. It will also consider "problems posed by relations of member states with North Vietnam and what contribution Europe could make to all of Vietnam after a cease-fire." This is the second organizational step taken by the EC to extend the Communities' activities in Asia. In June, the EC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations created a permanent committee for consultation between the two groups.

Portuguese Guinea - Guinea: Although Guinean President Toure publicly blames the Portuguese and other "imperialists" for the murder on Saturday of Amilcar Cabral, leader of the insurgency in neighboring Portuguese Guinea, his actions suggest he believes Cabral was killed by opponents within the rebel organization. In any event, Toure clearly is concerned over the possibility that internecine warfare will break out among factions of the insurgents. The Guinean military has taken control of the insurgents' headquarters in Conakry, and orders have gone out to regional governors to disarm all Portuguese Guinean guerrillas and keep them in their bases.

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